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Castro's 'Death On Wheels' Discourages Cuba Uprisings

Washington, March 30 (AP)—A new device known as "death on wheels" is being used in Cuba to bring terror and firing squad justice to those who oppose the Fidel Castro Communist regime.

This was reported tonight by an anti-Castro group of United States citizens known as the Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba. It made public a study entitled "Terror and Resistance in Communist Cuba" sketching examples of what it said were hundreds of cases where Cubans tried to show their revulsion at Communist oppression.

The report said "death on wheels" is a military vehicle which transports a traveling court, jury and executioners to the scene of uprisings.

Burke Writes Foreword

It added that the "increasingly repressive measures employed by the Cuban regime is a measure of the degree and intensity of disenchantment of Cubans with Castro and communism."

Retired Adm. Arleigh Burke, a former Chief of Naval Operations, wrote the foreword to the report as a member of the committee's executive board. He said the study is the "story of a people, good friends of ours, who know us well and whom we like and admire" and of their gallant fight "against almost insuperable odds" to regain their lost liberty.

Burke agreed with official sources here that while there is continued widespread disaffection in Cuba against the Castro regime the effect of the disaffection and sabotage has not been of substantial strategic value from a strictly military standpoint.

Sketches Instances Of Action

"Effective resistance in a Communist police state has been largely discounted," the Admiral wrote in the foreword.

But the report sketches many instances of action by the Cuban people—sometimes at the cost of their lives—to fight the Castro Government in any way they can.

Informed sources here, among

exiles and others say that sabotage now is not so much a problem to the Castro regime as it once was because the dictatorship in Havana has adopted ever sterner and more terrible methods to suppress it.

One method, said a member of the committee, is to go into an area where cane fields have been burned deliberately and line up a half dozen peasants, guilty or not, and shoot them. The effect is to terrorize the entire community, drive it from any anti-Government action, and to put other peasants on guard against even accidental firing of cane fields, such as from lightning.

Gathers Data On Conditions

Paul Bethel, 44, who was press attache at the United States Embassy in Havana from 1958 to the break in relations in 1961, is executive secretary of the citizens committee.

He describes the committee as a nonprofit research and educational organization to gather information about conditions in Cuba and to help the United States public, opinion leaders and Government figures "arrive at conclusions regarding the threat which Cuba presents to our security and to the security of this hemisphere."

The committee's 53-page report said the eyewitness stories it contains show "Communist Cuba is an advanced political and military base of the Kremlin.

"Its economy, its people, and even its leaders are subordinated to the requirements of maintaining and extending that base to envelop the Western Hemisphere," it said.